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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

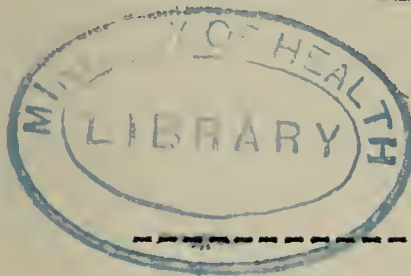
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1951

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS:

District Medical Officer of Health (and Divisional Medical
Officer for North Herts. Area):

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.
Divisional Health Office,
12, Brand Street,
Hitchin.
(Telephone: Hitchin 107)

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

S. M. JACKSON, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,
Town Hall,
Royston.
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Town Hall,
ROYSTON.
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JOHN SPENCER, D.P.A., A.C.C.S., Clerk of the Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Royston Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

Upon the direction of Ministry of Health Circular 42/51,
I submit an annual report for the year 1951.

The local birth rate (14.9) and death rate (14.0) are less favourable than the rates for England and Wales or the local rates for 1950. However, the comparability factor (for death rates) of 0.86 supplied by the Registrar General shows the age composition of the local population to be well above the national average. Application of the factors supplied give a standardised birth rate of 16.1 and a standardised death rate of 12.0.

I would acknowledge the assistance in the preparation of this report from Mr. S. M. Jackson, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, who is responsible for the section on sanitary matters. Also I would thank your Council and its chief officers for every consideration and help during the year.

I am, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

June, 1952.

VICTOR R. WALKER.

SECTION A.

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	1626.
Civilian Population - Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1951						4,511.
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1951 (estimated)						1,365.
Rateable Value (1st April, 1951)	...	...				29,309.
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...			£114.14s.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for
the year 1951.

	<u>Totals</u>	M.	F.	Royston U.D. Local Rates	Comparable rates for England & Wales.
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u> (Legitimate	63	31	32		
(Illegitimate	4	2	2		
(All	67	33	34		
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				14.9	15.5

	<u>Totals</u>	M.	F.
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u> (Legitimate	2	1	1
(Illegitimate	-	-	-
	2	1	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 29 23

	<u>Totals</u>	M.	F.
<u>DEATHS</u>	63	27	36

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated
resident population 14.0 12.5

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

All infants per 1,000 live births 45 30

Actual number of such deaths (a)	under <u>4 weeks</u>	and (b) total under <u>1 year</u>
Legitimate	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Cancer (all sites)	...	...	...	4
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	-

Comment on Vital Statistics.

Estimated local population for the mid-year 1951 shows a reduction of 297 on that for mid-1950. Live births were 8 less than the previous year and deaths numbered 9 more.

Still birth and infant death rates were less favourable than the national figures, but these being based on small numbers, are liable to considerable local fluctuation.

SECTION B. Provision of Health Services for the Area.

No important change took place during the year.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply

The whole of the district, with the exception of 8 houses in the Eagle Tavern Area, is supplied with water from the chalk by the Royston Water Company, by a piped supply of excellent quality.

There are 4 houses at The Green which are supplied by means of a standpipe. All the other houses in the district are supplied from the water mains direct to the houses.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations were made during the year and analysis shows the water to be in a satisfactory chemical and bacteriological condition and suitable for drinking.

No shortage was experienced during the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Three new houses built by private enterprise, and 30 new houses built by the Council were connected to the sewerage system during the year.

Two small extensions of the sewers were carried out to enable new houses to be sewered - one in Barkway Road and one in Green Drift.

The improvements at the Sewage Farm were commenced and work was well advanced by the end of the year. The improvements comprise the provision of new sedimentation tanks with screening chamber and pumping plant to lift the sewage from the low level sewer to the sedimentation tanks. This will prevent the fouling of the Ditch with sewage which has caused considerable concern for some years.

Refuse Removal and Disposal.

The motor refuse vehicle continued to give good service and no serious mechanical trouble was met with during the year. The service operates without any serious complaints from householders and this reflects to the credit of the men engaged in the refuse collection.

The cost of refuse removal for the year amounted to £823.13.10d.

The Tip at Coombes Hole was maintained as well as available labour allowed. Advantage was taken to cover and seal the Tip so far as possible with the surplus chalk and soil dug out in forming the new sedimentation tanks at the Works.

Rat infestation on the tip and on the Sewage Farm was kept within reason by regular baiting and poisoning carried out by the Rodent Operator of the Joint Scheme for Rodent Control.

Salvage.

The total amount of waste paper collected during the year showed an appreciable increase over the previous year, amounting to 57 tons 10 cwts. 2 qrs. 14 lbs., and realising £864.14.9d.

The cost of collection, sorting and baling amounted to £498.16.6d., showing a profit of £365.18.3d.

During 1951 the price of waste paper rose from 140/- per ton for baled mixed waste to 320/- per ton and from 170/- per tone to 500/- per ton for newspapers. There was evidence, however, at the end of the year, that the market was likely to fall again.

The Council entered for the National Waste Paper Contest organised by the Waste Paper Recovery Association Ltd. This Contest extended over the whole year (1951) and the basis of the Contest was the average tonnage collected per 1000 of population per month throughout the year.

Rodent Control

The operation of the Joint Pest Control Scheme with the Hitchin and Welwyn Rural District Councils showed that useful work was carried out and in Royston the Rodent Operator's work covered the following:-

Hours worked:-

Sewers, 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.	Refuse tips etc., 82 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours
Private dwellings 116 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.	Business premises 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours.
Block Inspections 19 hours.	Inspection of Agricultural land $\frac{3}{4}$ hour.

The number of rats and mice picked up following treatments were, Rats 301, Mice 18.

The total number of inspections made during 1951 as a result of notification or otherwise was 246.

The scheme has worked smoothly, and I would like to record my appreciation of the work of the Senior Sanitary Inspector of the Hitchin Rural District Council, who has been in control of the scheme and acted as co-ordinating officer.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The details below show the number of inspections made during the year:-

Defects under the Housing Acts	49
" " " Public Health Acts	127
" " " Factory Acts	6
Prevention of Infectious Diseases	5
Milk & Dairies Order	10
Food Shops & Stores	55
Bakehouse Inspections	4
Prevention of Nuisances	101
House Drainage	36
Supervision of Salvage	47

Supervision of Refuse Collection & Disposal	54
Rats & Mice Destruction	246
Caravans & Moveable Dwellings	15
Miscellaneous Inspections	103

Details resulting from the above inspections are as follows:-

Houses in Clearance Areas to be demolished	6
Statutory Notices served	4
Informal Notices served	68
Notices complied with	68
House roofs renewed or repaired	14
House windows repaired	6
House chimneys repaired	14
House floors renewed or repaired	34
House ceilings " " "	31
House walls (external) repaired or plastered	18
House eaves gutters renewed or repaired	34
Internal wall plaster repaired	28
House drains relaid or repaired - 6. New drains	141 yards.
Gullies fixed	8
Intercepting traps fixed	2
New sinks fixed	4
Sinks renewed or repaired	6
Sink waste pipes renewed or repaired	23
W.C. roofs repaired	6
W.C. pans renewed or repaired	8
W.C. cisterns renewed or repaired	49
New baths fixed	5
Inspection chambers built	5
Inspection chambers repaired	2
New vent shafts fixed	2
New F.A.I. fixed	2
Water service pipes repaired	18
Dampness remedied	24
Yards paved or repaired	2
Cooking ranges renewed or repaired	19
Hot water systems renewed or repaired	2
Staircases repaired	5
Blocked drains cleared & cleansed	16
Accumulations of rubbish removed	14
Houses disinfected	5
Bakehouse floors cleansed	1
Bakehouse ceilings repaired & cleansed	1
Dairies cleansed & linewashed	2
Sanitary conveniences at factories repaired	2
" " " " cleansed	2
New Sanitary Conveniences provided at Licensed Premises	2

New Streets & Buildings.

Total number of plans approved	33
Plans approved for new houses	5
" " " other buildings	24
" " " Change of User	2
" " " conversion or adaptation	2
New houses completed:-	
By Local authority under Housing Acts	30
By Private Enterprise	3
Conversions & adaptations - Family units	2
Other buildings completed	35
Drains laid to above	948 yds.
Gullies laid to above	76
Connections to sewer	17
Vent shafts fixed	40
Inspection Chambers built	63
Water closets fixed	52
Intercepting Traps fixed	9
Baths fixed	34
Lavatory Basins fixed	41
Sinks fixed	38
Dustbins provided	35
Urinals provided	4

SECTION D

Housing.

During the year, 30 new traditional brick houses were erected and occupied. All these were on the Ermine Close Estate and were of three bedroom type.

Three new dwellings were erected by private enterprise. All these were of three bedroom type.

Conversions and adaptations of existing buildings by private enterprise provided two family units.

At the end of the year the Council held two premises under requisition and these provide 6 family units of accommodation.

Ex. P.O.W. Camp, Therfield Heath.

Six of the huts at this site were demolished during the year and the seven families were re-housed.

This left four huts housing six families still to be dealt with. Those these remaining huts are the best of those on the site, their condition is poor and it is to be hoped that the tenants can be re-housed in the near future.

Clearance Areas.

6 houses in Clearance Areas still remain to be demolished. One of these is still occupied. Every effort is being made to complete the demolitions and negotiations with the owners of the premises are in progress.

Informal action has been taken where essential repairs were necessary to render houses fit and satisfactory results have been obtained without resource to formal action.

Control of Civil Building.

The Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor has continued to act as the officer responsible for the issue of Building Licences on behalf of the Minister of Works under Defence Regulations 56A.

During 1951, 6 licences to erect new dwelling houses were issued, including 1 licence transferred from the City of London.

Three houses under licence were completed and occupied during the year.

One building was adapted to provide 2 units of family accommodation.

23 licences were issued for essential works and repair to properties of a total estimated cost of £7,562.

The work licensed included the provision of additional bedrooms, provision of bathrooms, erection of garages and the repair and renewal of roofs, eaves, gutters and downpipes, drains, external walls, internal wall plaster, ceilings, chimney stacks, floors, cooking and heating apparatus, water closets, sinks, baths and lavatory basins, the repair and painting of external wood and ironwork, internal redecorations and other essential works to bring the property up to a reasonable standard of repair.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk

There are three milk producers in the district, one of whom is licensed by the County Council for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

There are also 2 retail purveyors of milk in the district.

Periodic inspections of farms and dairies were made during the year.

One retail purveyor installed a pasteurising plant to comply with the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and was licensed by the County Council.

Meat.

No slaughtering of animals is carried on in the district. Meat in butchers shops and fish in fishmongers have been inspected and the following certified as unfit for human consumption:-

Beef (Home killed)	145 lbs.
Pork Fillet	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Kippers	2 stone
Halibut	7 lbs.

The causes of condemnation were Bone Taint and Decomposition.

Other Foods.

Meat and other food shops were visited and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption on examination and were destroyed:-

Bacon	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Eggs (Danish)	228
Ham (Imported)	206 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Sausage Binder	2 cwts.
Butter	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Cream Slices	6
Cherry Cake	6 lbs.

Lard	56 lbs.
Steak & Kidney Pies	24

Tinned and Packetted Food.

Corned Beef (6 lb. tins)	3	
do. do. (12 oz. ")	3	
Meat and Gravy	7	tins.
Luncheon Meat (4 lb.tins)	9	
do. do. (12 oz. ")	6	
Jellied Veal (6 lb.tins)	1	
Pork Sausages	2	tins
Chicken	2	"
Lamb Tongues	1	"
Veal (6 lb.tins)	4	
Steak	2	
Salmon	1	tin
Sardines	2	"
Crawfish	1	"
Evaporated Milk	10	"
Skimmed Milk	1	"
Full Cream Milk	1	"
Condensed Milk	3	"
Beans	5	"
Peas	8	"
Plums	21	"
Pears	1	"
Grapefruit Juice	1	"
Apricots	2	"
Pineapple	6	"
Cherries	12	"
Gooseberries	3	"
Mixed Fruits	240	"
Soups	110	"
Rhubarb	1	"
Tomatoes	17	"
Celery	1	"
Spaghetti	3	"
Pickles	1	"

Food & Drugs Act 1938.

Inspections with regard to the Byelaws relating to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and the Sale of Food in the Open Air were made and resulted in improvements being carried out. A sink and water heater were provided at one premises.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No intimation of any occurrence of food poisoning was received during the year.

Green Plunge Swimming Pool.

Samples of water were taken from the above and analysis showed the pool to be suitable for bathing purposes.

Factories Act, 1937.

The following table gives the information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Form 572.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	Number of			
	No. in Register	Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
I. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	4	-	-
II. Factories not included in (I) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	23	11	-	-
III. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excl. outworkers).	-	-	-	-
Total	33	15	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects found.				
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	No. of prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding	Nil	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp.	Nil	-	-	-	-
Inadequate vent.	Nil	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	Nil	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>					
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	Nil	-	-	-	-
Total	6	5	-	1	-

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and other diseases.

Total notifications of infectious disease (after correction) were:

Measles	54
Whooping Cough	23

No single case of other more serious disease was notified. Both the above childhood infections were confined to the first and (to a lesser extent) second quarters, their incidence falling mainly on the infant school population.

For yet another year no case of diphtheria was confirmed in the district. Despite its continued absence from the area, the offer of protection of infants by immunisation continued to be accepted by a large majority of parents.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Deaths During the Year.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	4	1	-	-	2	-	-
Deaths allocated by Registrar General after final transfers					-	1	-	-

New notifications for tuberculosis vary little from previous years and the figure of one death from respiratory disease is the same for 1949.

VICTOR R. WALKER.

District Medical Officer of Health.